

## **International Education Committee Minutes January 25, 2012 9:00 a.m.**

**Committee members present:** Michael Johnson, Matt Warning, Rachel DeMotts, Matt Ingalls, Roy Robinson, Stephanie Noss, Sally Sprenger, Bob Boyles, Donn Marshall, Tanya Stambuk, Amy Rolle (student) and Sam Gregory (Student)

The minutes from the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be sent electronically by Roy and additions or corrections may be submitted to Michael.

1. Establish meeting schedule for spring 2012

Meeting schedule was agreed upon: every other Wednesday at 9:00 am

Meetings will be held the following days: February 8, 22; March 7, 28; April 11, 25 with a backup in May if necessary. Mark will secure meeting locations and email the group with the final spring

2. Update on the situation in Honduras (Roy)

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Latest-News-Wires/2012/0118/Peace-Corps-Honduras-Why-are-all-the-US-volunteers-leaving>

Roy summarized his concerns about the Global Brigade Volunteers (GB) who are planning on traveling to Honduras this summer given that the Peace Corp has pulled all of its volunteers out of Honduras. The GB program, offered through the Division of Student Affairs under Marta Palmquist Cady and Sarah Comstock, has run for the past two summers with about 15 students volunteering for the trip. Roy expressed his desire to form a committee of IEC and/or other faculty/staff to act as an advisory group to address issues for students traveling to areas where safety and liability were a concern. In this case because the GB is not an academic program the committee recommended that Roy bring this issue up with Lisa, the person to whom these issues have been referred in the past. The committee also did not feel they had the expertise to comment on issues of safety abroad.

Rachel suggested this might prove an opportunity to address whether the current university safety policy governing study abroad may need to be altered or revised to include volunteer programs and/or whether the university wants to explore additional red flag warnings such as that issued by the Peace Corp in determining whether or not a program may be supported by the university.

3. The Study Abroad Approval Subcommittee (Rachel, Matt Ingalls, Donn and Roy) will meet Wednesday, February 1 at 9 a.m. to review 18 applications that have either low GPA or conduct violations.

4. Michael brought before the committee Roy's question about the rationale behind the one deadline for study abroad applications. In the meantime, Roy learned from Lisa this decision was driven by the budget process and therefore not something likely to be revised in the near future.

5. Michael addressed the two Senate Charges:

- a. To discuss Summer Programs including resources for faculty who are interested in offering study abroad classes and how to better publicize these opportunities.

b. To review programs on the current list and determine which of those are no longer viable and might be consolidated.

The only guideline for faculty led short term study abroad programs is for non-credit bearing courses but this document lacks the specific details to create short term programs.

Roy suggested the OIP might offer a workshop for creating programs.

Additional suggestions:

- Create a document for all the steps required to create summer programs, including a timeline of necessary procedures
- Invite faculty (Gareth and Rachel) who have led successful programs to share the practical aspects of how they met the challenges in setting up a program.
- Identify whether or not all credit bearing courses must meet for 6 weeks ( Michael will check w/ Lisa)
- Explore the option of outside providers who will arrange the logistics of short-term offerings
- Rachel offered insights from her experience in which she created her program from the ground up: Imbed credit in the academic year in order to keep costs down for the program, access money from grants, if available, to fund students on the program, stress that new program should be relevant and integrated into existing programs in the country to be visited.

New Business:

- Roy reported that a student applying for a Boren Scholarship is required to have language familiarity to qualify for the scholarship. She chose a study abroad language program not on the Puget Sound list. The committee agreed that if she submitted her petition to the committee, they would be willing to review her request following the guidelines for students petitioning for a new program

Next meeting will be a review of documents for starting a summer program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Sprenger